

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8, 10, 12, 14 – 16, 18, 19, 23 and 25 – 29 remain in the application. Claims 1 – 6, 8, 10 – 15, 8 – 23 and 25 – 29 stand rejected. Claims 7, 9, 16, 17 and 24 are objected to. Claims 9, 11, 13, 17, 20 – 22 and 24 are canceled herein. Claims 1, 10, 12, 14, 19, 23 and 25 are amended herein. New claims 30 and 31 are added. No new matter is added.

Claims 7, 9, 16, 17 and 24 are objected to for depending from rejected claims, but are acknowledged to read around the references of record and, therefore, are deemed otherwise patentable. Responsive thereto, claim 1 is amended to include the recitations of objected to claim 9 and is therefore claim 9 rewritten in independent form; claim 10 is amended to include the recitations of objected to claim 17 and intervening claims and is, therefore, claim 17 rewritten in independent form; and, claim 19 is amended to include the recitations of objected to claim 24 and intervening claims and is, therefore, claim 24 rewritten in independent form. Further, objected to claim 7 is rewritten as new claim 30 and objected to claim 16 is rewritten as new claim 31. Claims 12, 14, 19, 23 and 25 are amended herein to correct dependency changes from cancelation of objected to claims or intervening claims. Having thus amended all independent claims, all claims remaining in the application are allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 8, 10, 12 – 16, 18, 19, 23 and 25 – 29 and the objection to claims 7 (30), 9 (1), 16 (31), 17 (10) and 24 (19), is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 6, 8, 10 – 15, 8 – 23 and 25 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over published U.S. Patent No. 5,892,568 to Czoppenszky in combination with published U.S. Patent application No. 2002/0159283 to Chai et al. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the examiner. Applicants

respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The applicants thank the Examiner for efforts both past and present in examining the application. Believing the amendment to place the Application in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider new claims 30 and 31, reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 7 (30), 9 (1), 16 (31), 17 (10) and 24 (19), reconsider and withdraw the rejection of amended claims 1 – 8, 10, 12 – 16, 18, 19, 23 and 25 – 29 and allow the application to issue.

Should anything further be required, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below for a telephonic or personal interview to discuss any other changes.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0510 and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,

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(Date)

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